

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Autism knows no racial, ethnic, social, income, lifestyle, or educational level boundaries; and,

*Whereas*, Autism is a lifelong neurological disability that prevents appropriate understanding of what an individual sees, hears, or otherwise senses; and,

*Whereas*, Autism causes severe problems in learning, verbal and nonverbal communication, and the acquisition of social interaction skills; and,

*Whereas*, The majority of the general public is unaware of how this complex neurological disability affects people and how to interact effectively with individuals with autism; and,

*Whereas*, Advocacy groups such as The Autism Society of America, founded in 1965, and the South Dakota State Autism Society, founded in 1985, are dedicated to upholding the civil, educational, and human rights of all individuals within the autism spectrum; and,

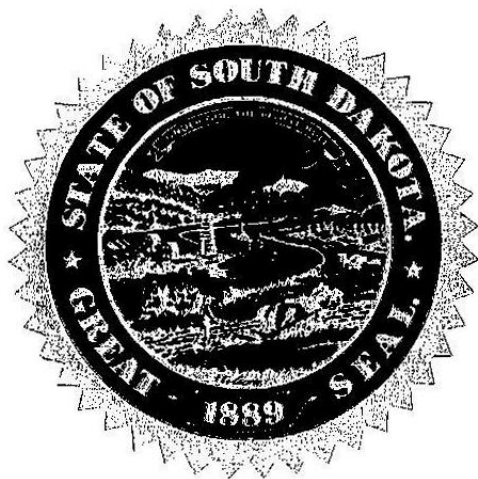
*Whereas*, These support groups remain committed to educating the general public about autism and providing positive behavior support for all persons with autism; and,

*Whereas*, Autism needs greater recognition and research to better understand this complex developmental disability and early access to accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment for all children and adults with autism;

*Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2011, as

## *AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH*

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fourth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

*Dennis Daugaard*

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

*Judy A. Larson, Executive Asst.*  
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State